

FROM THE PASTOR



MUSTARD SEED
CALVARY LUTHERAN
CHURCH

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

So much of life in this world revolves around the calendar. It seems as if every year I wake up one day see that it is almost Thanksgiving and wonder where the year has gone. I have just gotten used to writing 2010 and it is already 2011. It seems that it should still be 1995 (or '75 or '55 depending on how old you are). Time passes on and eventually seems to pass us by. Change accelerates in our culture so that the world that we remember, and in our own hearts and heads still live in to some extent, is vastly different from the world today.

Against this constant change we have a God who is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. (Heb. 13:8). However much change may discomfit us (or please us if we are of that personality) God is changeless. How do we understand this changeless God in a world constantly in change? While in part the answer to such questions is always “we don’t”, at least not fully, God does provide us ways to see continuity in the midst of change.

While the secular calendar may serve as a way to quantify the amount of change, the Church calendar serves as an unchanging anchor for the Christian life. On the Sunday closest to Nov. 30 we will begin Advent, as the Church has for your entire life. Indeed this has been the pattern of the Church in the days of your parents, grandparents, etc., going back for centuries, to a time when America was “undiscovered”, Europe was a mishmash of kingdoms with borders little like today, and the evil seed of Islam had not yet germinated in the mind of Mohammed.

So we gather, as the Church has for centuries before us, to look forward to the coming of the Christ. We look forward to the coming whose timing we know – as an infant 2,000 years ago in Bethlehem. We look forward to the coming which appears on no calendar yet – His coming in glory for the judgment of the living and the dead.

We will hear the same readings, sing the same hymns, make the same confession (often even for the same sins), that we have for much of our life. Find comfort in this rhythm. These unchanging things are not there so you will be bored. They are there to

remind you of the permanence of our Lord in a world of impermanence. To show you how He does not change, even when everything else does. To give you the joy of His eternal love in the midst of a time when love often seems ephemeral.

Brothers and Sisters, live in the unchanging love of God, as seen in Christ on the cross. His love does not change in the face of our sin and failure. It does not change even as the world goes topsy turvy. It does not change even as Satan whispers to us that He could not possibly love us. In your Baptism, He has called you His child and attached to you His name. Live in that love as we await the coming of the Christ, first as baby Jesus, and then as the eternal judge at the end of the age.

In Christ,

Pastor Joynt

Christmas Caroling: On Saturday Dec. 18th, from 3:00pm to 6:00pm, we will go Christmas caroling to some of our shut ins and some local nursing homes. This is an always fun event that allows us to bring the joy of Christmas to people who may not get a chance to share in it as much as they would like. You do not need to bring anything other than an open heart and a joyful voice. Please join us and feel free to bring any friends who would enjoy sharing Christmas in song.

Happy Birthday!

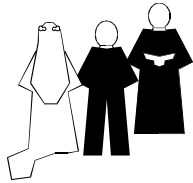
Idonna Deaver-Gibson	12/03
Isaac Christensen	12/07
Ed Hahn	12/07
Joseph Parker	12/07
Matthew Wilder	12/14
Brian Rochester	12/18
Roxana Williams	12/18
Rachel Rankin	12/19
Rosemary Suhr	12/19
William Stewart	12/21
Jacob Williams	12/24
Alyssa Comstock	12/25
Delores Powell	12/29
Robert Barton	12/31
John Ehrlich Jr	12/31

BAPTISM

Catherine Cochran	12/01
Megan Ehrlich	12/01
Bonnie Graham	12/01
Michael Kositzke	12/01
Carrie Kositzke	12/01
Jaiden Williams	12/02
Katherine Seeger	12/06
Tyler Green	12/12
Katie Strom	12/12
Lisa Elam	12/13
Barbara Kline	12/13
Isaac Christensen	12/14
Joseph Parker	12/19
Rachel Rankin	12/19
Matthew Joynt	12/23

Happy Anniversary

Jeremy & Rachel Rankin	12/18
Ron & Michele Hill	12/20
Cecil & Jean Sigafoose Jr.	12/22
Bruce & Maggie Fenske	12/29
Harry & Delores Powell	12/31



BUILDING PROJECT PHASE I LCEF Loan

Balance (10/29/2010)	\$98,290.69
Principle payment 10/31/10	\$ 1,500.00
11/15/10	\$ 270.00

2010 BUDGET Contributions & Expenses



OCTOBER 2010

Contributions	\$10,715.03
Expenses	\$16,070.28
Building Fund Contrib.	\$ 1,150.00
Building Principal Contrib.	\$ 1,500.00
Building Fund Expense	\$

YEAR TO DATE

Contributions	\$102,619.37
Expenses	\$159,198.11
Building Fund Contrib.	\$ 7,278.11
Building Principal Contrib.	\$ 22,925.00
Building Fund Expense	\$ 4,419.55

OVERALL FUND BALANCES

Building Fund	\$ 6,801.82
LWML	\$ 1,326.79

Voter's Meeting

On Sunday, December 12th there will be a voters' meeting after Sunday school. We will be approving the 2011 budget, electing church leadership, deciding whether to put on a new roof, and addressing other issues. Please attend and participate in the practical life of the congregation.



Twenty-two people attended our November LWML meeting which featured Maggie Fenske. We enjoyed her passion for music, and learning about her move to Yuma from Wisconsin, along with the subsequent development of the music program at Yuma Lutheran School. The twinkle in her eyes and the music in her heart and soul were expressed in every word and every note played, as she relayed passing on the gift of music to her students, and delighting audiences. She had three students with her: Anna Joynt and Cailynn Stuebs from Calvary and Anna Jarocki from Christ Lutheran, as well as quick-study student, Paula Backs. Their music was a treat we were thrilled to hear and to see how much they enjoyed playing the string instruments.

Hopefully you will read this before our December meeting which will be Thursday the 2nd at 7 PM. We have a Christmas program planned and will also be making door decorations for Emerald Springs. We did this last year and it was a joy to hear the thank yous from the residents.

We will also be holding our 8th annual cookie sale on Saturday, December 4th. We are asking all the ladies of Calvary who are able, to furnish four (4) dozen cookies for this. Please bring them to the church fellowship hall between 4 and 5:30 PM on Friday the 3rd. The proceeds from this sale are used to fund our various mission projects throughout the year. These include monthly gifts to the seminary food bank, monthly support to a Lutheran Bible translator, and our monthly \$100 gift to different agencies. We hope you will support this fundraiser with your contribution of cookies or by purchasing cookies and by spreading the word about this sale to your friends. THANK YOU in advance for your help.

And REMEMBER: ALL LADIES WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD ARE CONSIDERED LWML MEMBERS.

Check out the new Bulletin Board about The Lutheran Hour. Our congregation is one of the sponsors. It is broadcast on Sundays at 11:30 on KCFY 88.1 Radio station. What a great way for our members and friends that are homebound, in assisted living, and nursing homes to hear the Gospel on Sundays! The rest of you that are able to attend worship and Bible Study can listen to it on the way home.

The basket in the Fellowship Hall needs to be filled to the brim every week for the Mission Board to take to the Yuma Community Food Bank. Many people in Yuma are unemployed and are in need of food for their families. Please remember to purchase a few extra items when you grocery shop each week. Suggested items: peanut butter, oatmeal, mac and cheese, tuna, other canned meat, and any other non-perishable items.

Drop your used Christian materials, including Portals of Prayer in the box in the entry of the Fellowship Hall. These are recycled in the Yuma area to help people know of Jesus' love.

The Mission Board will sponsor a Community Health Fair on January 15, 2011 in the Fellowship Hall. The first one in 2009 was a huge success and we pray that this one will be too. We will be asking for volunteers to help. Thrivent has been contacted to be a sponsor.

Mark your 2011 calendars for January 29 for the yearly Walk For Life, sponsored by the New Life Pregnancy Center. Start getting your sponsors early so you can make the 1 mile, 2 mile, or 3 mile trek around Smucker Park.

Kudos to those who obtained their flu shots at the Mollen Immunization Clinic here at our church on November 10.

2011 Nominees

Board of Ed.	Kyle Reinertson	Board of Trustee	
Board of Mission	Diana Hanson Paula Backs	Board of Elders	
Board of Stewardship	Rosemary Suhr Wilma Replogle Lisa Elam Connie Wubbena	President Vice President Treasurer Secretary	Bob Stash Wil Stewart Marilyn Damet



FROM THE PRESIDENT

I must have been five or six at the time. It was a miserable day in February or March; cold, misty, rainy with a biting wind. Only people from the Northeast can appreciate that kind of miserable, damp cold. I was not allowed to go out and play and was bored and getting underfoot in the cozy, warm kitchen. Normally my mother would just throw me out of the kitchen (if my grandmother was present, I would get thrown out in German, too). This time she just suggested that I leave the kitchen and look out the window and see if I could see a robin, the first sign of spring. I went to the window next to my Dad's desk and looked out under the apple tree. I can't say whether I actually saw a robin or was it my childhood imagination, but I ran back into the kitchen shouting "I saw one, Mommy! I saw one!" Oh joy! Robin redbreast, the harbinger of spring and that most joyous season of all to follow, summer, with all its warmth and freedom and, of course, no school.

Advent Season is upon us. That means that the Church begins its preparation for the season of Christ's birth (about one month after the commercial world begins its preparation for the selling season). Our theme for our Wednesday advent services this year will be God's Love at Christmas. Our theme hymn will be "God Loves Me Dearly", which was written in 1852 by Pastor August Rische, who was serving disadvantaged youth.

Join us in Advent worship this year as we hear of God's love and its very personal announcement to each of us. In the midst of the craziness, commercialism, and outright crassness of Christmas in America, pause on Wednesdays to hear the true message of God, His love for you, personally. As Pastor Rische said "God loves me dearly, loves even me."

Now I don't know of anyone in Yuma who looks forward to summer. If I did, I would suggest therapy. But I most certainly do look forward to winter with its cool days, cooler nights and maybe even a little bit of rain. And, I have my own personal robin, what in my mind is the first sign of winter. A few weeks ago I saw it. It was true, winter was actually almost here. There it was right in front of me as I waited in line for gas at Sam's Club: the first Saskatchewan license plate of the season.

Besides cooler weather, Advent, Christmas and the other joys of the season, this is the time of the year when we welcome our brothers and sisters in Christ from the cold North. Whether from the Canadian provinces or the American north we at Calvary bid you welcome to Yuma and to our family in Christ. This is a wonderful time for all of us when our numbers increase. There is a new energy in the air, whether in our worship services, meetings or in the fellowship hall.

Help us to celebrate God's love this Advent season.
Worship will be as follows:

- Wednesday December 1st 11:00 A.M. & 7:00 P.M.
God's Love Covers Me with Christ.
- Wednesday December 8th 11:00 A.M. & 7:00 P.M.
God's Love Stirs up My Heart.
- Wednesday December 15th 11:00 A.M. & 7:00 P.M.
God's Love Speaks Comfort and Joy.

Pastor will make Communion available after service for anybody who wants it, especially for those who will not be able to worship Sunday.

So, to our year round membership, I urge you to recognize and welcome our guests from the North as they arrive. Make a special effort to make them feel part of our family and at home. Invite them to fellowship after worship. Urge them to consider Associate Membership in our congregation and most of all, make them feel welcome at Calvary.

I wish you all, visitors and year rounders alike, a happy and blessed Thanksgiving!